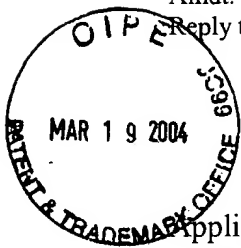


Appl. No. 09/675,113
Amdt. Dated 03/15/2004
Reply to Office action of January 15, 2004

#8/a



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application. No. : 09/675,113
Applicant : Hale, et al.
Filed : 09/29/2000
TC/A.U. : 2135
Examiner : Ronald Baum

Confirmation No. 1158

Docket No. : 042390.P9144
Customer No. : 8791

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MAR 23 2004

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office action of January 15, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.